

selected emotion from the database. Dellaert teaches away from awarding a prize since user input occurs in the context of a small and informal experiment. Furthermore, the experiment in Dellaert is performed in order to assess how well a human does in classifying a corpus containing emotional speech taken from a believable agent domain. Amended claim 1 requires user input and awards the user a prize in order to assist the user in recognizing emotion. Thus, Breese and Dellaert are inapposite to amended claim 1.

Nowhere in Breese or Dellaert or any of the prior art references uncovered by the Examiner is it disclosed, taught, or suggested that a user-determined emotion be compared to the selected emotion from the database. Nor is the feature of awarding a prize to the user if the user-determined emotion matches the selected emotion from the database. By this feature, the user can compete against another user or a computer to assist the user in recognizing emotion. Please note the Applicant's specification starting on page 39. Therefore, claim 1, as amended, is believed to be allowable over Breese and Dellaert

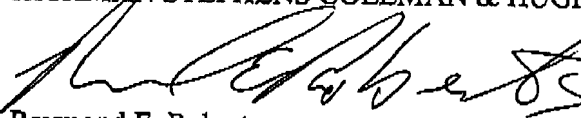
Claims 7 and 13, as amended, contain similar limitations as the amended claim 1 and are therefore believed allowable over Breese and Dellaert for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 2-6 depend from amended claim 1. Claims 8-12 depend from amended claim 7. Claims 14-18 depend from amended claim 13. Therefore, claims 2-6 include all of the limitations of claim 1 as amended, claims 8-12 include all of the limitations of amended claim 7, and claims 14-18 include all of the limitations of amended claim 13. By virtue of their dependence from amended claims 1, 7, and 13 respectively, claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 are believed to be allowable over the references of record.

New claims 19, 20 have been included to further clarify and define the scope of Applicant's invention. New claim 19 illustrates a practical application of the amended claim 1, which is to help autistic people in developing better emotional skills at recognizing emotion in speech. New claim 20 defines candidates against which the user may compete, utilizing the method set forth in amended claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, reexamination of claims 1 through 18 is respectfully requested, and it is submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 558-9950. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0797 (Order No. AND1P111/AC990070). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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